

# Coverage-Guided USB Fuzzing with Syzkaller

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OffensiveCon  
February 15th 2019

# Who am I?

- Andrey Konovalov <andreyknvl@google.com>
  - Software engineer at Google
  - Work on various Linux kernel bug finding tools
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- Twitter: @andreyknvl
  - GitHub: @xairy
  - Telegram: @xa1ry

# Dynamic Tools Team

- Userspace
  - AddressSanitizer, ThreadSanitizer, MemorySanitizer, ... (bug detectors)
  - libFuzzer (in-process coverage-guided fuzzing engine for C/C++)
  - oss-fuzz (continuous fuzzing service for open source software)
- Linux kernel
  - KASAN (available upstream), KMSAN (in active dev), KTSAN (on hold)
  - syzkaller (coverage-guided grammar-based kernel fuzzer)

# Agenda

- Syzkaller overview
- USB overview
- USB fuzzing with syzkaller
- Hardware reproducers
- Bonus

# Syzkaller Overview

# Kernel Fuzzers Before Syzkaller

[Trinity](#) (and others) in essence:

```
while (true) syscall(rand(), rand(), rand());
```

Knows argument types, so more like:

```
while (true) syscall(rand(), rand_fd(), rand_addr());
```

- Tend to find shallow bugs
- Frequently no reproducers

# Syzkaller

- Coverage-guided grammar-based kernel fuzzer
- Unsupervised
- Multi-
  - OS (Linux, \*BSD, Fuchsia, ...)
  - arch (x86-64, arm64, ...)
  - machine (QEMU, GCE, Android phones, ...)
- Generates C reproducers for found bugs

# Syzkaller

- As of now found over 2500 bugs ([syzkaller/wiki/Found-Bugs](https://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/syzkaller/wiki/Found-Bugs) + [syzbot](https://lcamtuf.coredump.cx/syzbot) + internal)
- Numerous CVEs
- At least 4 public local privilege escalation exploits (CVE-2017-7308, CVE-2017-6074, CVE-2017-2636, CVE-2017-1000112)



# Coverage for the Linux Kernel

- Available upstream with CONFIG\_KCOV
- GCC/Clang pass that inserts a function call into every basic block
- Kernel debugfs extension that collects and exposes coverage per-thread

```
if (...) {  
    ...  
}
```



```
__sanitizer_cov_trace_pc(); // 1  
if (...) {  
    __sanitizer_cov_trace_pc(); // 2  
    ...  
}  
__sanitizer_cov_trace_pc(); // 3
```

# Syscall Descriptions

Declarative description of all syscalls:

**open**(file filename, flags flags[**open\_flags**], mode flags[open\_mode]) fd

**read**(fd fd, buf buffer[out], count len[buf])

**close**(fd fd)

**open\_flags** = O\_RDONLY, O\_WRONLY, O\_RDWR, O\_APPEND ...

# Programs

The description allows to **generate** and **mutate** "programs" in the following form:

```
mmap(&(0x7f0000000000), (0x1000), 0x3, 0x32, -1, 0)
r0 = open(&(0x7f0000000000)="./file0", 0x3, 0x9)
read(r0, &(0x7f0000000000), 42)
close(r0)
```

# Algorithm

1. Start with an empty corpus of programs
2. Generate a new program, or choose an existing program from corpus and mutate it
3. Run the program, collect coverage
4. If new code is covered, minimize the program and add to the corpus
5. Goto 1

# Ideally...



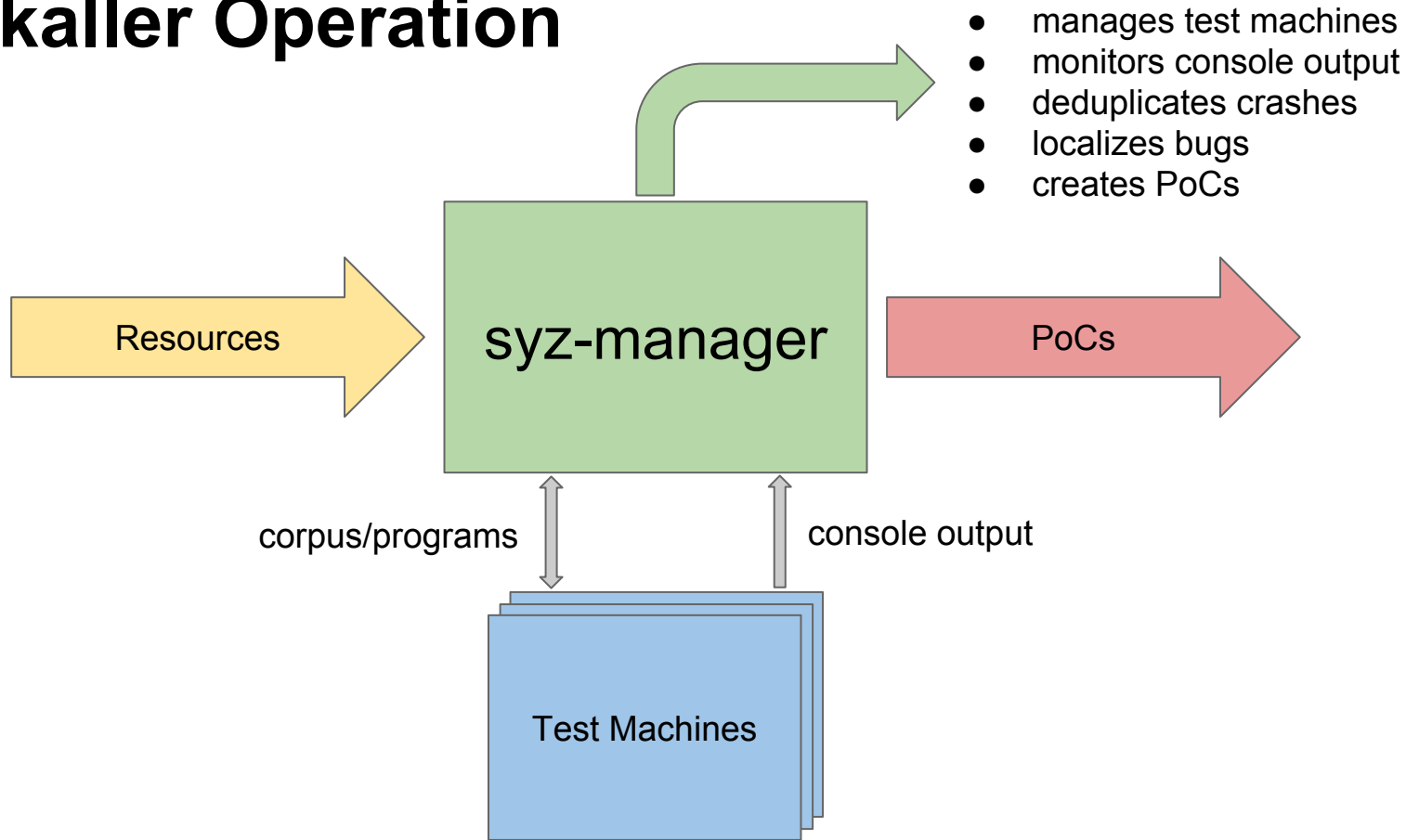
# Reality

Operation of a typical kernel fuzzer:

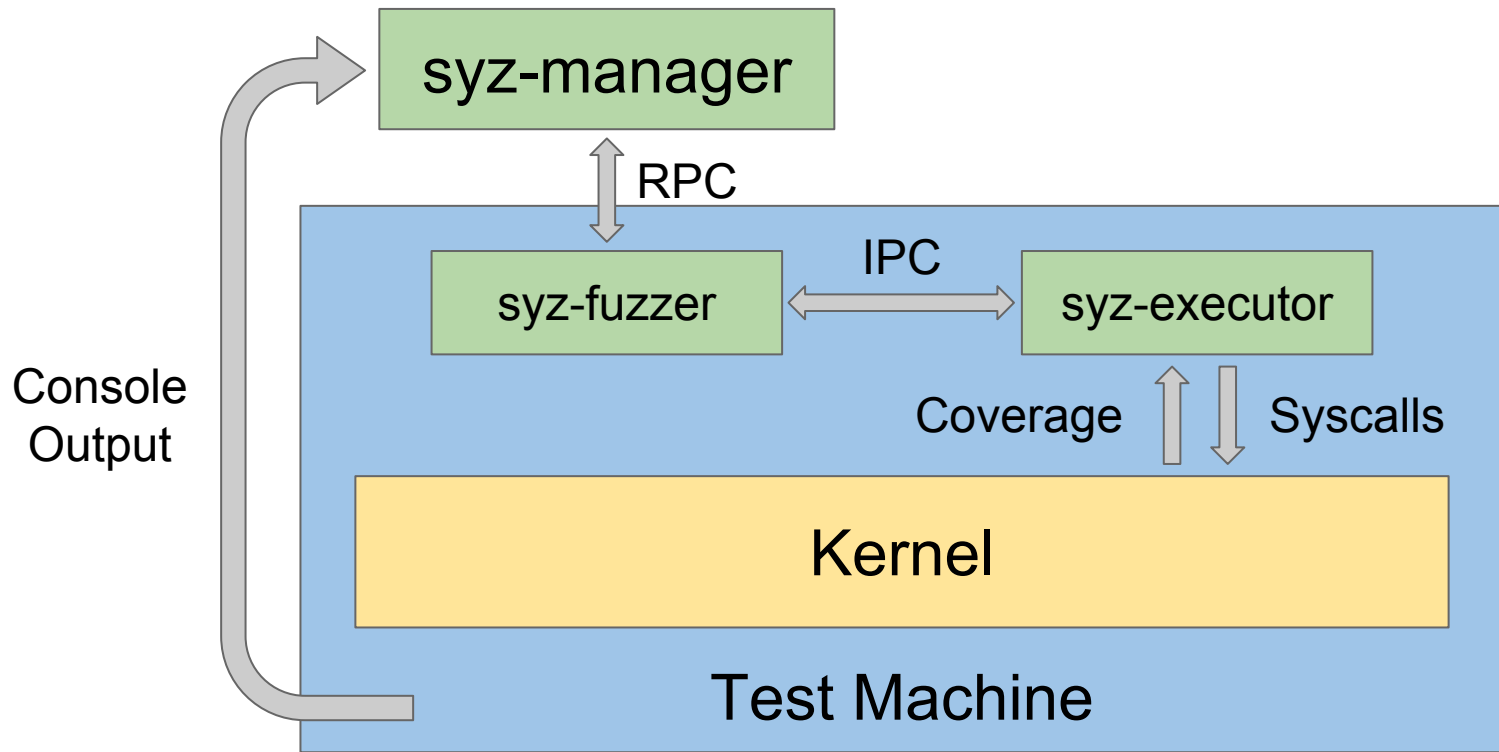
- Manually create a bunch of VMs
- Manually copy and start the binary
- Manually monitor console output
- Manually deduplicate crashes
- Manually localize and reproduce
- Manually restart the crashed VM (or press power button!)

Works only if you want to find a handful of crashes. Otherwise - full time job.

# Syzkaller Operation



# Syzkaller Architecture





# Further Automation

- syz-ci
  - Continuous kernel/syzkaller updates
  - Restarts syz-manager on new kernel/syzkaller
- syz-hub
  - Input/reproducer exchange between several syz-manager's
- [syzbot](#)
  - Bug aggregation
  - Reporting
  - Status tracking

**[syzkaller.appspot.com](https://syzkaller.appspot.com)**

# USB Overview

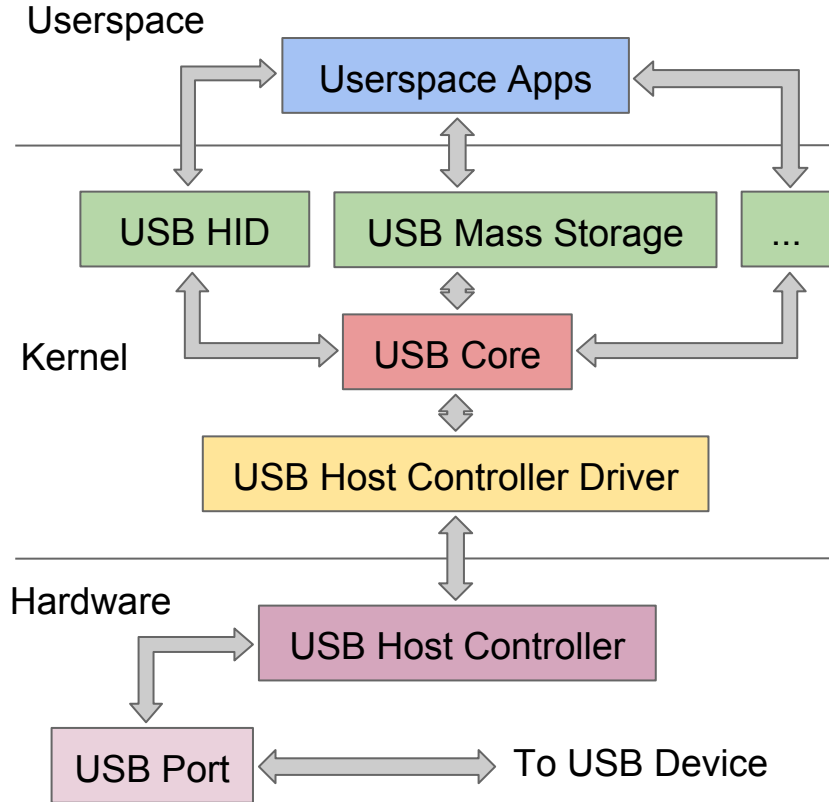
# USB 101

- Host initiates all communication with a Gadget (a USB device)
- Message based protocol
- When a Gadget is connected, Host performs an enumeration procedure to find out which driver should handle the Gadget
- During enumeration Gadget sends USB descriptors that describe it to the Host
- After enumeration has completed, Host gives away Gadget handling to the loaded driver
- Good read on the USB protocol basics: [USB 101: An Introduction to Universal Serial Bus 2.0](#) by Robert Murphy

# **Demo: lsusb**

**Demo: usbmon**

# Linux USB Subsystem: Host



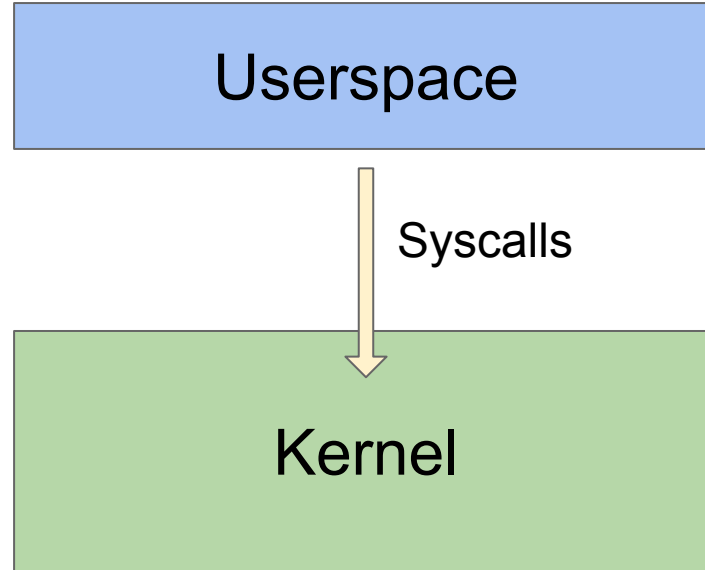
# Previous USB Fuzzing Approaches

- Use hardware
  - [FaceDancer](#) - "The purpose of this board is to allow USB devices to be written in host-side Python, so that one workstation can fuzz-test the USB device drivers of another host"
- Emulate USB devices through a hypervisor
  - [vUSBf](#) - fuzzes the guest kernel running in QEMU by connecting USB devices via usbredir protocol

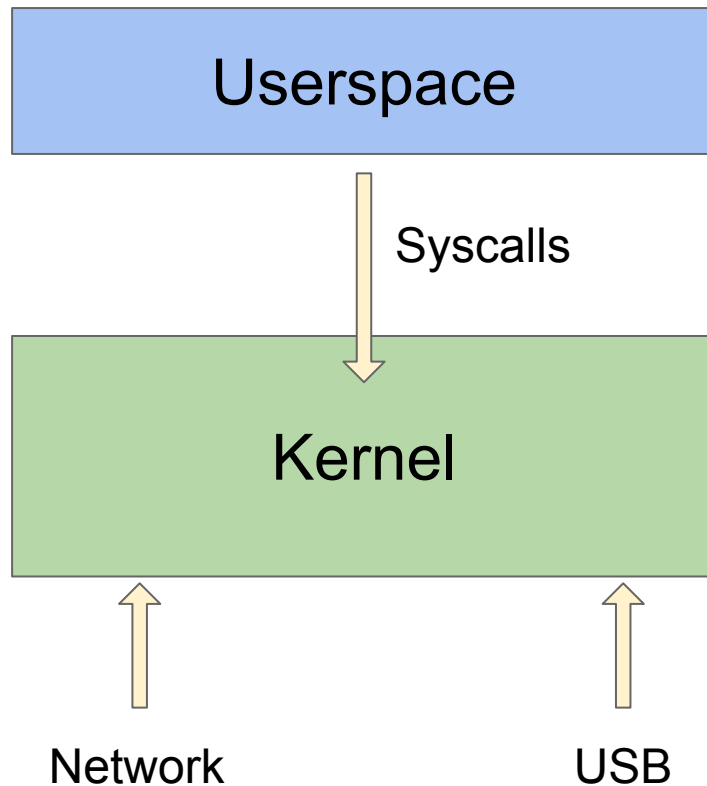


# USB Fuzzing with Syzkaller

# Kernel Inputs: Syscalls



# External Kernel Inputs



# Goal: Fuzzing the USB Stack Externally

- We want to collect coverage from the USB stack
  - Currently CONFIG\_KCOV allows to collect coverage from the current kernel thread, but USB is handled asynchronously in a background thread
- We want to deploy this on syzbot
  - Syzbot fuzzes the kernel on GCE VMs, thus we can't depend on some external entities injecting USB packets, like hypervisors (e.g. QEMU) or hardware (e.g. FaceDancer)

# Collecting Coverage From USB

- CONFIG\_KCOV allows to collect coverage from the current kernel thread
- USB handling happens in background kernel threads ([hub\\_event](#))
- The idea is to annotate background kernel thread code and collect coverage (using the same compiler callbacks) into a per-annotation buffer, and then copy it to the userspace coverage memory
- Patches that extend CONFIG\_KCOV to support coverage collection from arbitrary kernel threads (not upstream yet): [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)

# Collecting Coverage with CONFIG\_KCOV

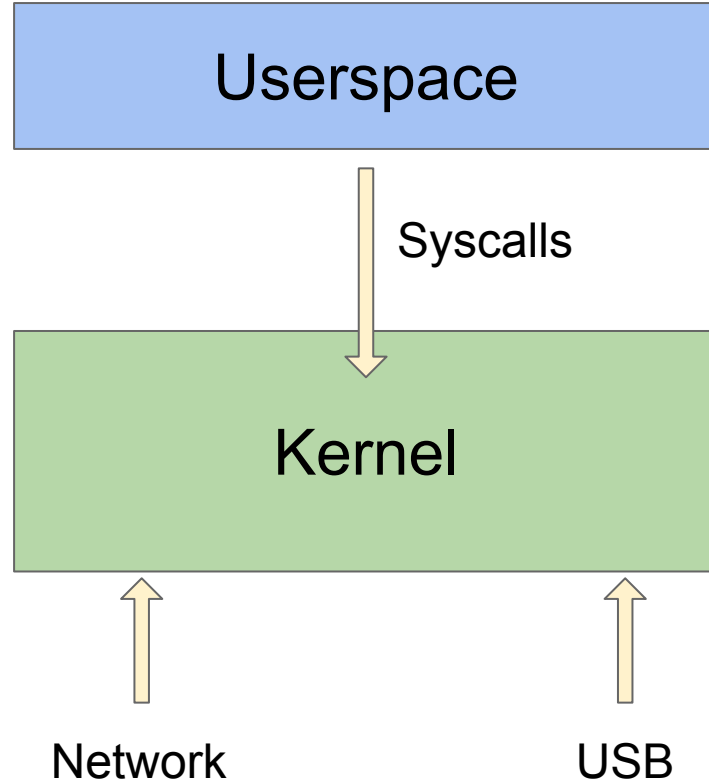
```
int fd = open("/sys/kernel/debug/kcov", ...);  
unsigned long *cover = mmap(NULL, ..., fd, 0);  
ioctl(fd, KCOV_ENABLE, ...);  
  
// Now coverage from the current kernel thread is collected into cover.
```

# Coverage From Background Threads

```
void hub_event() { // Executed in background kernel thread.  
    kcov_remote_start(UNIQUE_ID); // Requires kernel annotations.  
    ...  
    kcov_remote_stop(); // This dumps collected coverage into *cover.  
}
```

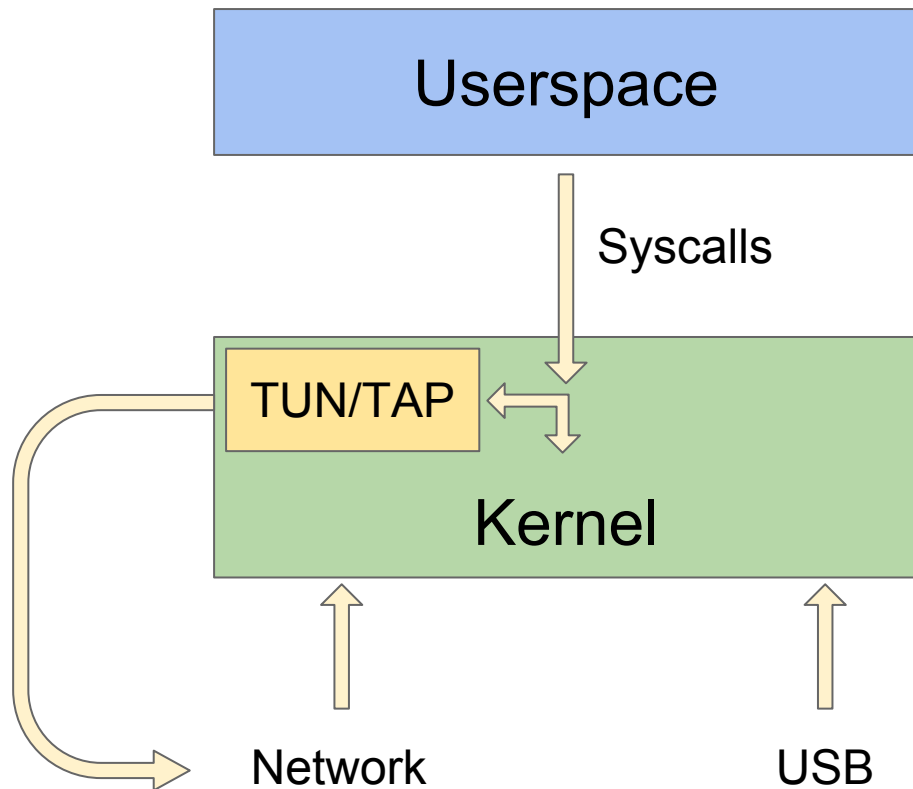
```
int fd = open("/sys/kernel/debug/kcov", ...);  
unsigned long *cover = mmap(NULL, ..., fd, 0);  
ioctl(fd, KCOV_REMOTE_ENABLE, {..., UNIQUE_ID, ...});  
// Now coverage from background kernel thread is collected into cover.
```

# How Do We Inject USB "Packets"?

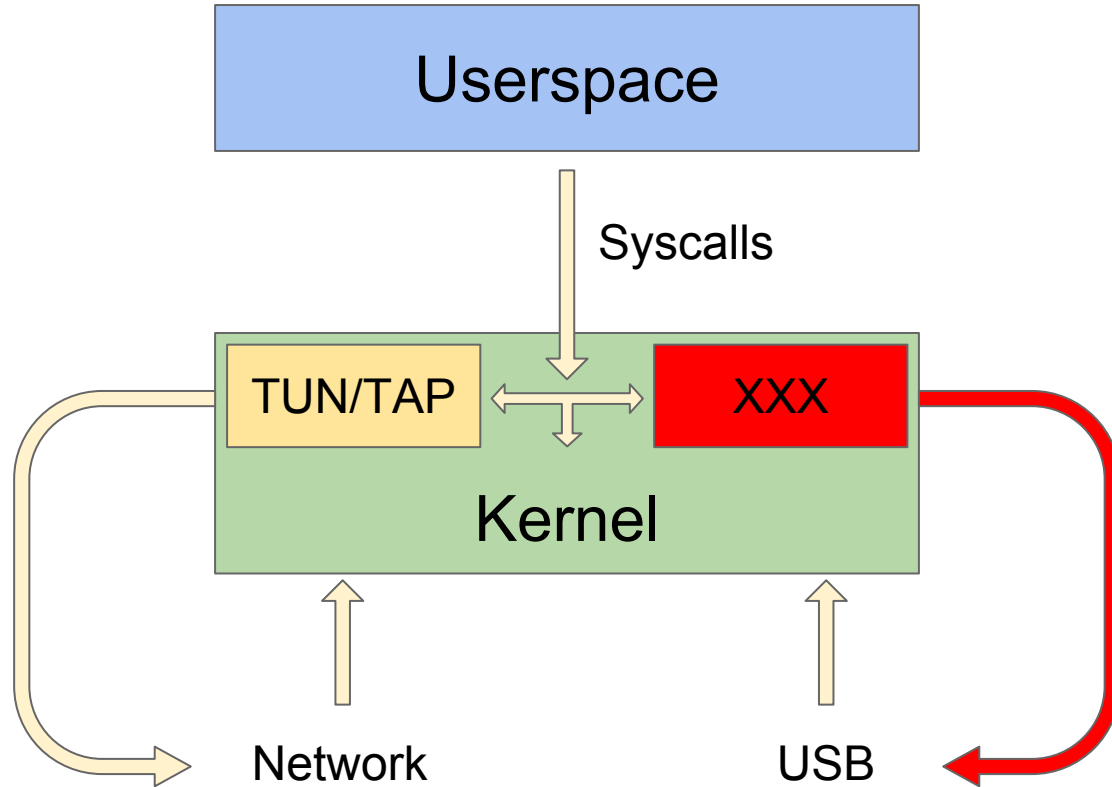




# Syzkaller Injects Net Packets via TUN/TAP



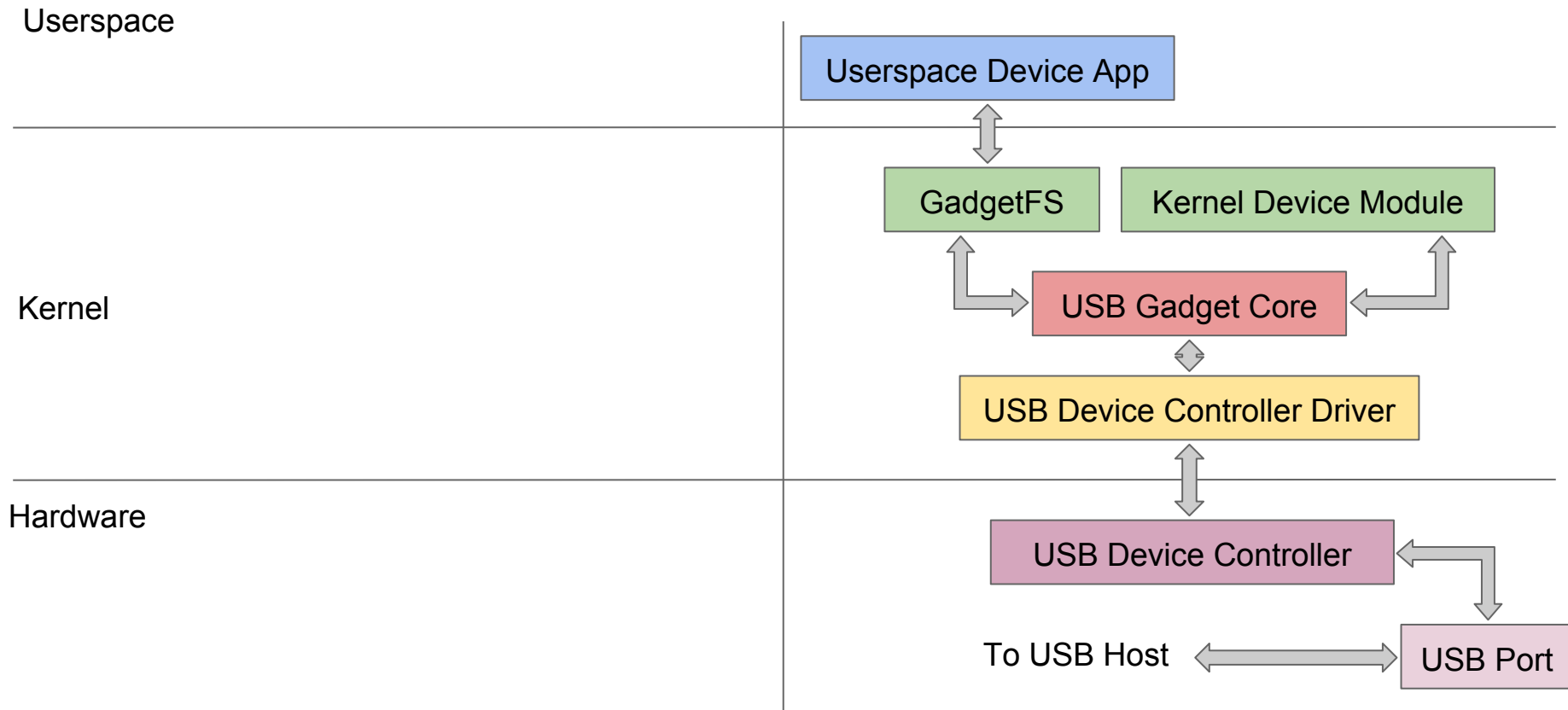
# Can We Do Something Similar for USB?



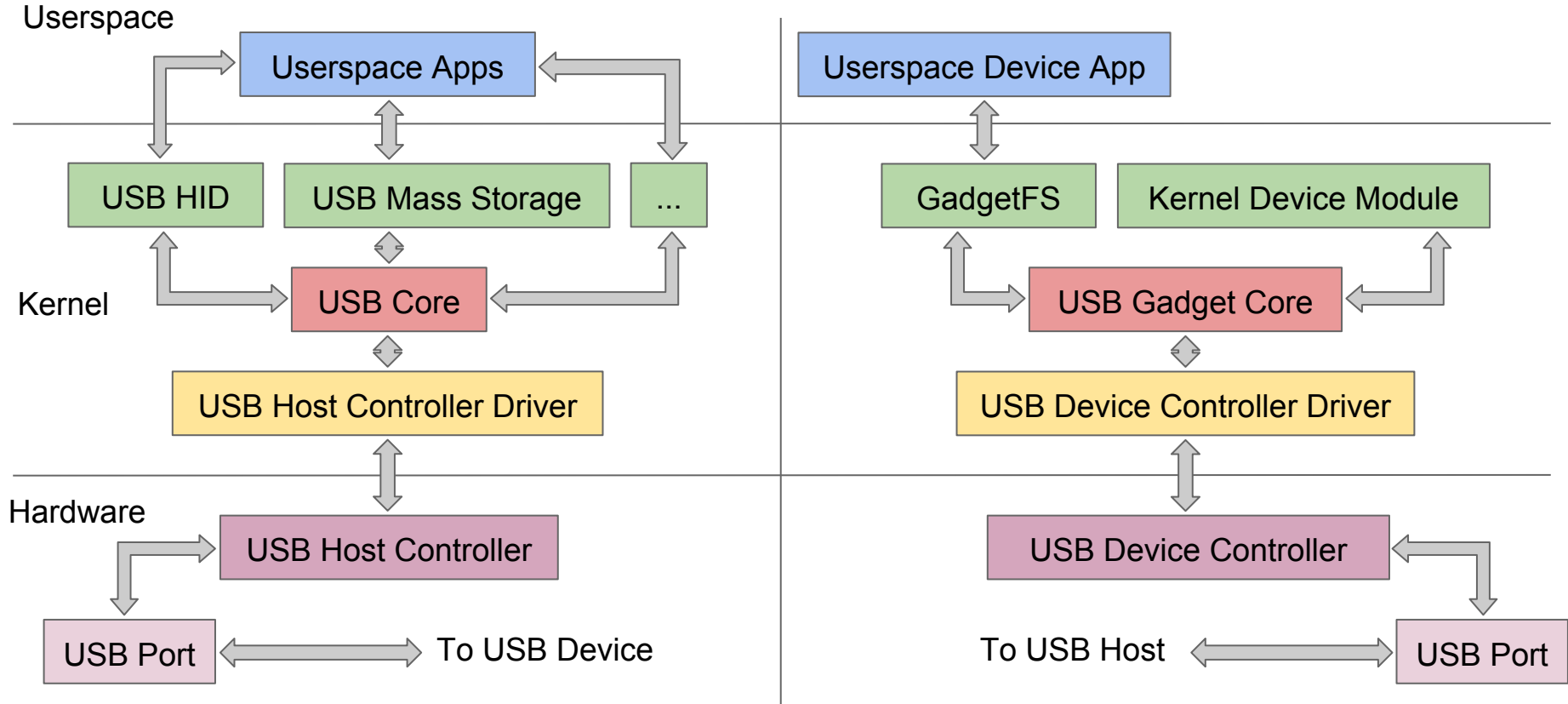
# Linux USB Subsystem: Gadget

- Allows to turn a Linux device into a USB device
- Requires a USB Device Controller and driver for it
- Linux provides a few interfaces for the Gadget Subsystem
  - GadgetFS - a userspace interface, essentially allows to implement USB device logic as a userspace app
  - ConfigFS/FunctionFS and legacy modules (g\_hid.ko, ...) - implement USB device logic as kernel modules, but are controlled from userspace
  - Gadget Subsystem API - allows to implement a USB device as a custom kernel module

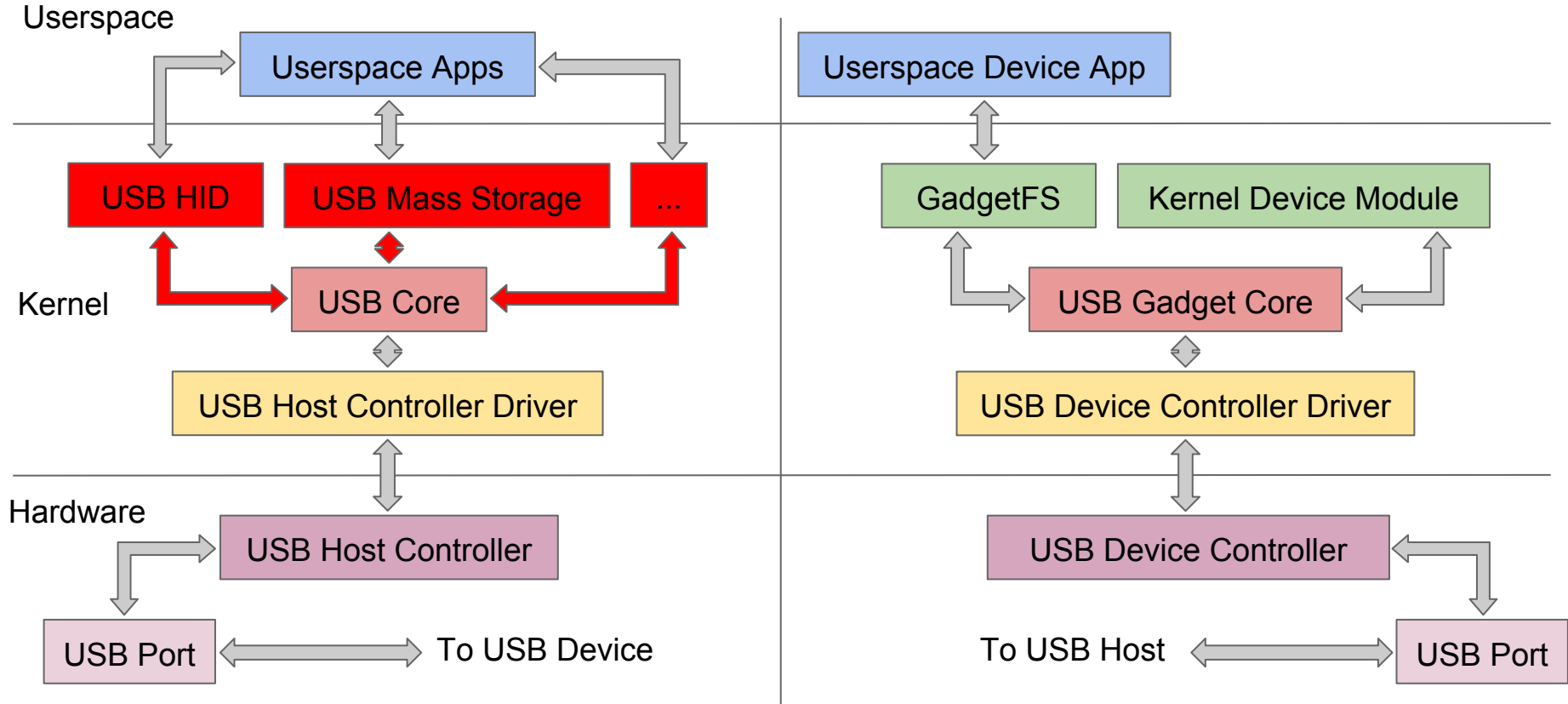
# Linux USB Subsystem: Gadget



# Linux USB Subsystem



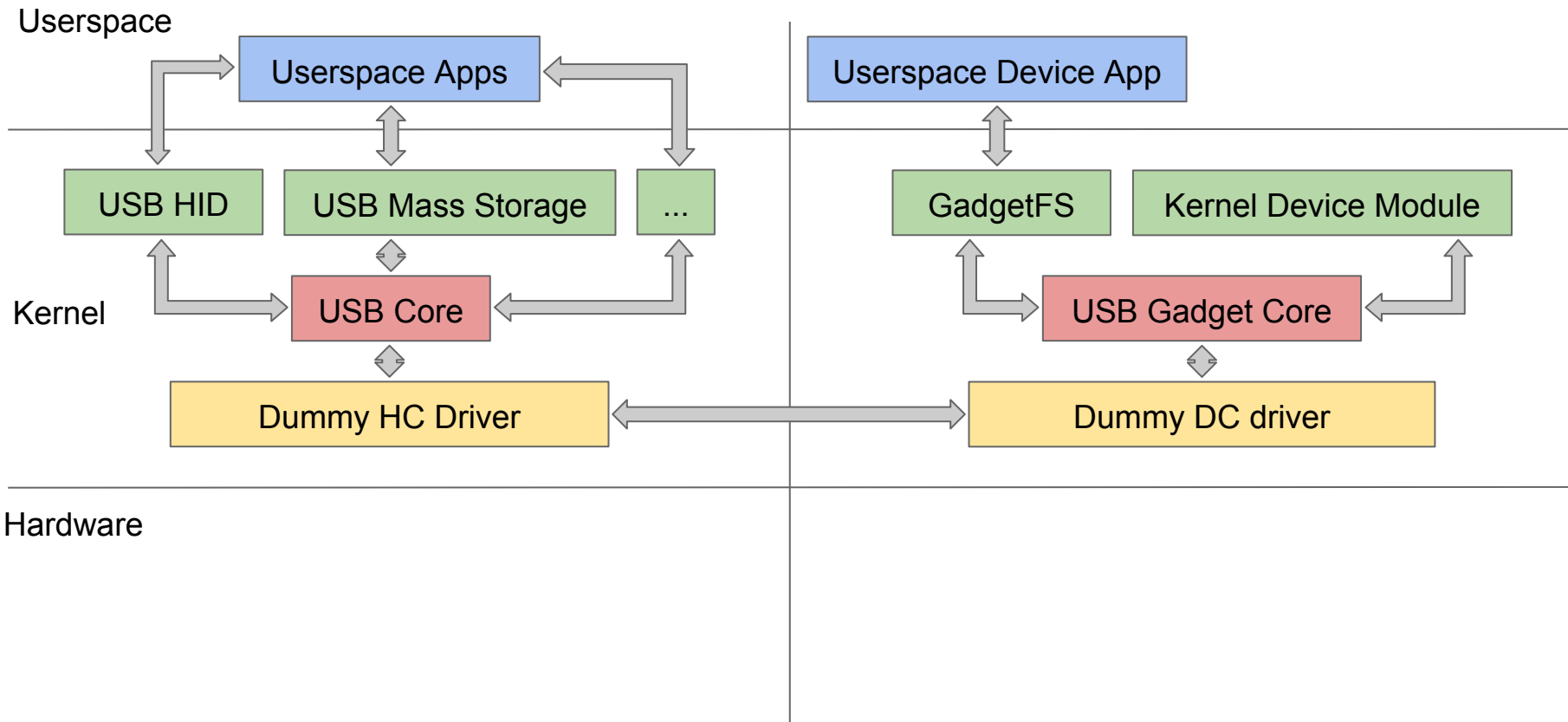
# Linux USB Subsystem: Attack Target



# CONFIG\_USB\_DUMMY\_HCD

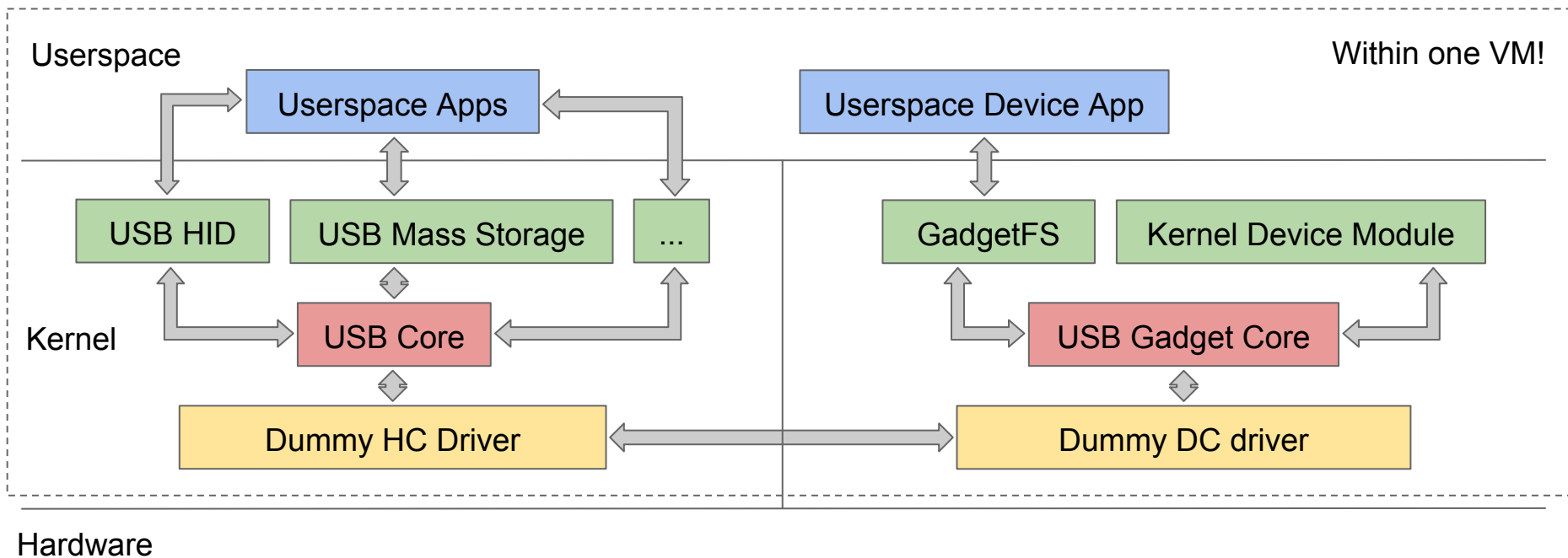
- Implements virtual USB Host Controller Driver and USB Device Controller Driver that are connected within the kernel and don't require any hardware
- Essentially allows to emulate USB devices from userspace
- Available upstream

# CONFIG\_USB\_DUMMY\_HCD





# CONFIG\_USB\_DUMMY\_HCD



No hardware (or hypervisors) required!

# USB Fuzzer Kernel Module

- A GadgetFS-like interface for emulating USB devices via the Linux Gadget Subsystem
- Uses Gadget API for communication with the USB Device Controller
- Provides an ioctl-based userspace interface for emulating USB devices
- Unlike GadgetFS doesn't have sanity checks on the provided USB descriptors and doesn't contain any device emulation logic
- All of the USB device emulation logic is controlled by the userspace
- Not yet upstream, the patch is [here](#)

# Syzkaller USB Fuzzing Approach

Userspace

syz-executor

Kernel

USB HID, USB Mass Storage, ...

USB Core

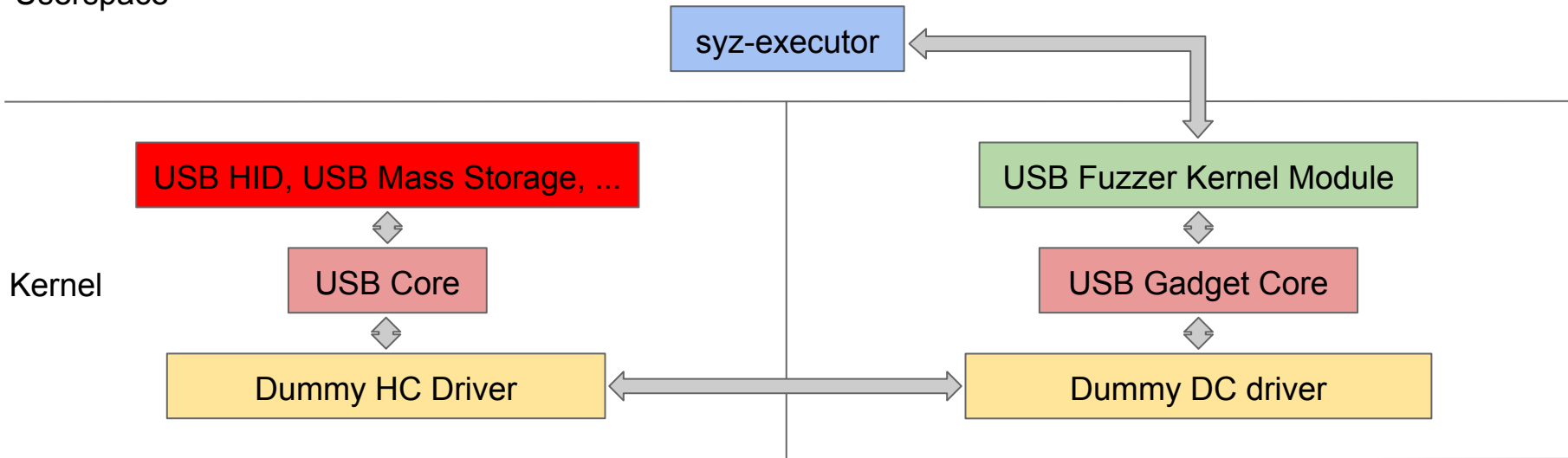
Dummy HC Driver

USB Fuzzer Kernel Module

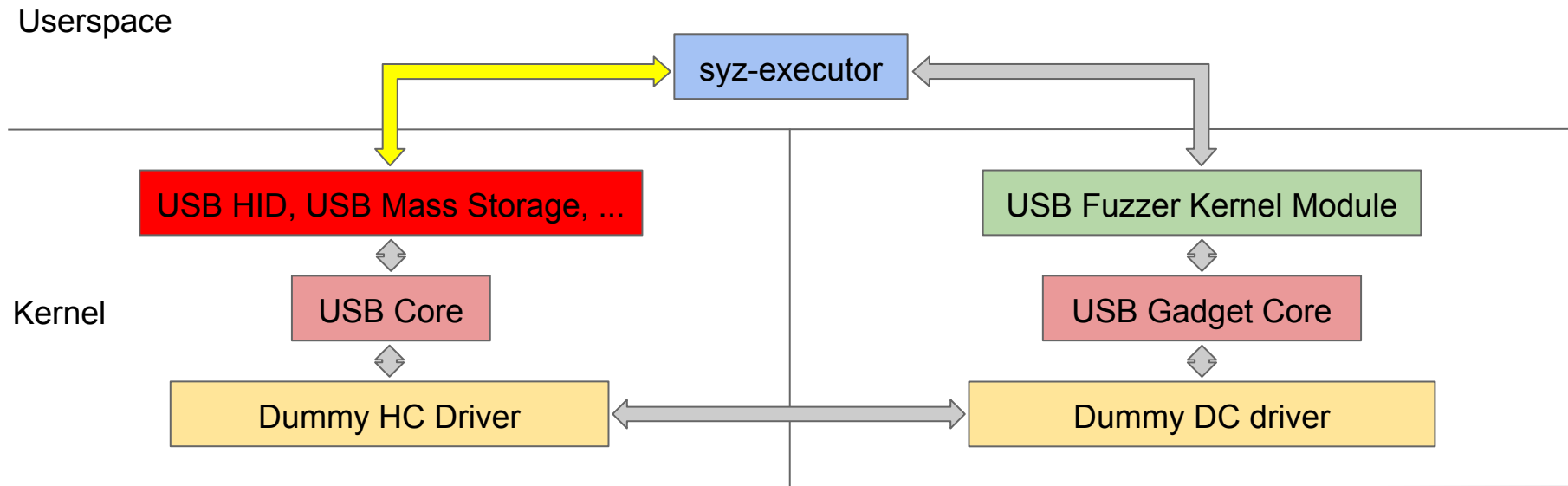
USB Gadget Core

Dummy DC driver

No hardware (or hypervisors) required!



# Syzkaller USB Fuzzing Approach (not yet)



No hardware (or hypervisors) required!

# Syzkaller USB Descriptions

- [sys/linux/vusb.txt](#) contains the generic descriptions of USB messages and descriptors
- [sys/linux/vusb\\_ids.txt](#) contains an automatically extracted list of USB IDs that are used to match a USB device to a driver
- [executor/common\\_linux.h](#) contains the implementation of USB emulation routines (syz\_usb\_connect)

# **syz\_usb\_connect**

```
syz_usb_connect(usb_device, usb_message_descriptions) {  
    fd = open("/sys/kernel/debug/usb-fuzzer");  
    connect_device(fd, usb_device);  
    while (event = wait_for_usb_event(fd)) {  
        response = find_matching_response(event);  
        send_response(fd, response);  
    }  
}
```

**Demo: USB Fuzzing In Progress**

# **Demo: Running Reproducers in a VM**



# Linux Kernel USB Fuzzing Results

- Reported [80+](#) bugs in the USB subsystem
- 5 bugs in USB core subsystem
- 23 CVEs (for the bugs that got fixed)
- 50+ not yet reported, working on syzbot integration
- 12 bugs in USB Gadget Subsystem (mostly GadgetFS)

# Limitations

- Linux only
- CONFIG\_USB\_DUMMY\_HCD doesn't support isochronous transfers
- Linux Gadget API doesn't expose some low level USB requests (e.g SET\_FEATURE)

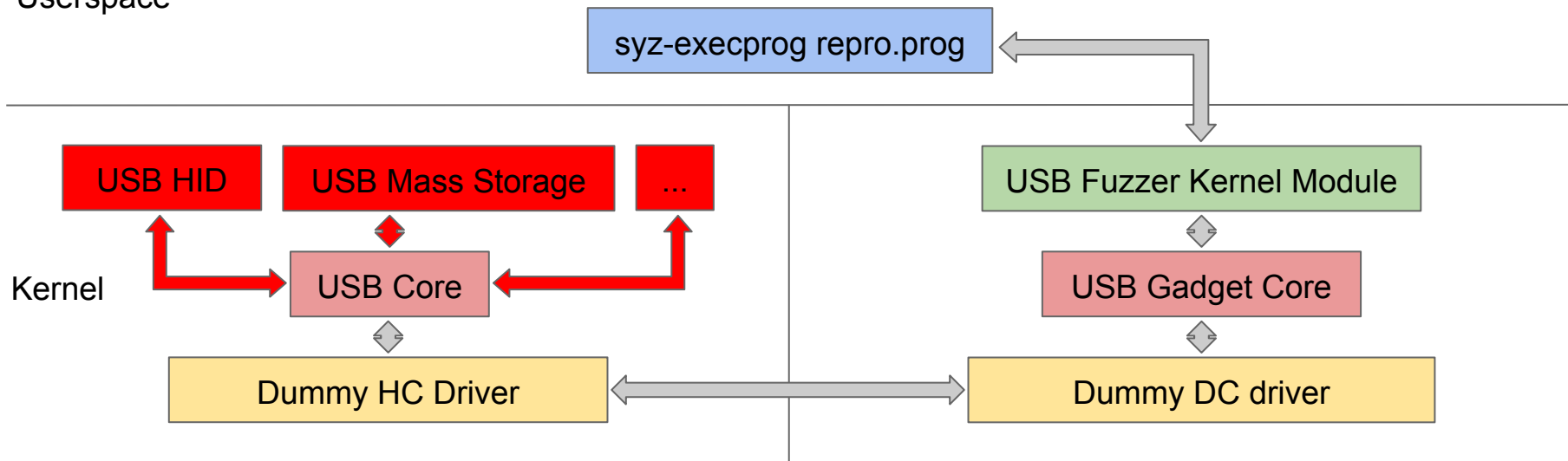
# Future Work

- Improve fuzzing after enumeration (need coverage and descriptions for specific protocols)
- Upstream Linux kernel patches and syzkaller changes
- Integrate with syzbot for automatic bug reporting
- Fuzz other protocols besides USB

# **Hardware Reproducers**

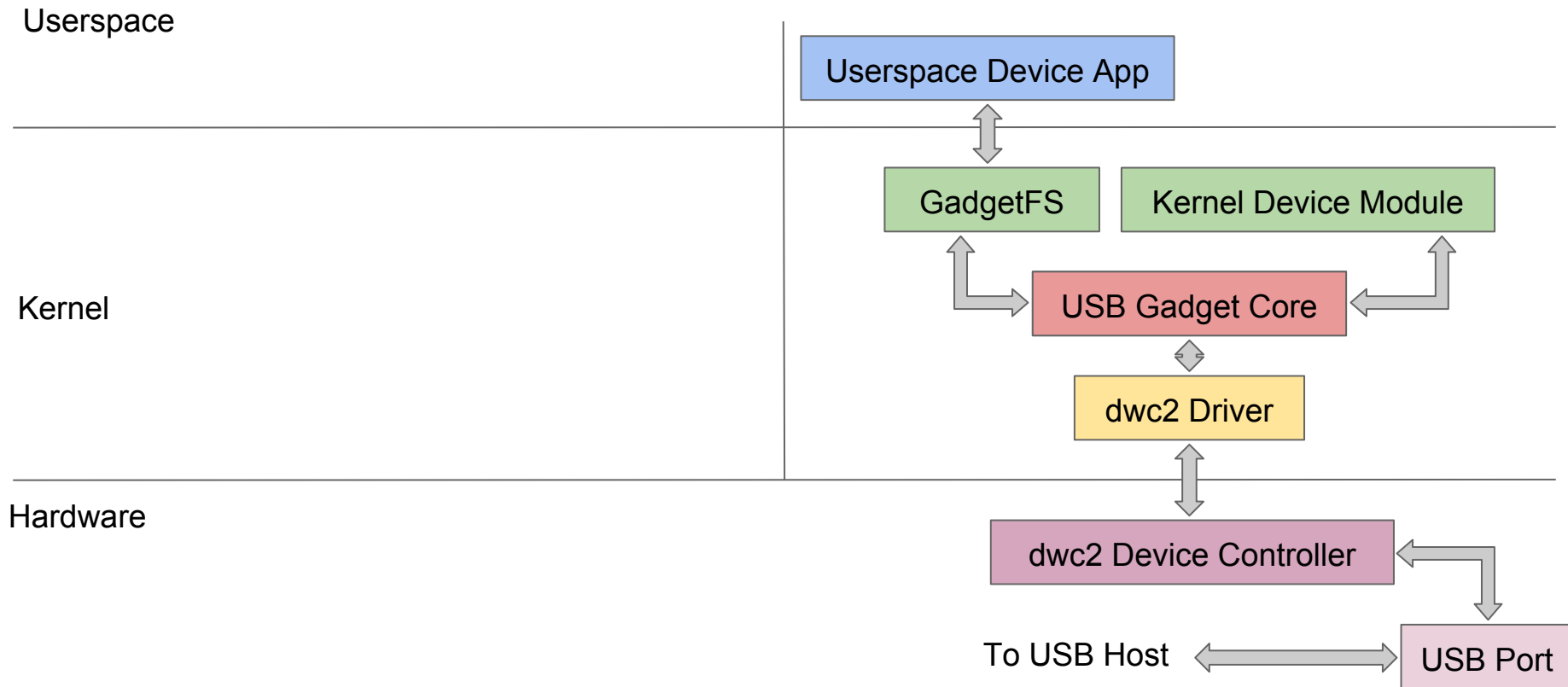
# Running Reproducible via Dummy

Userspace

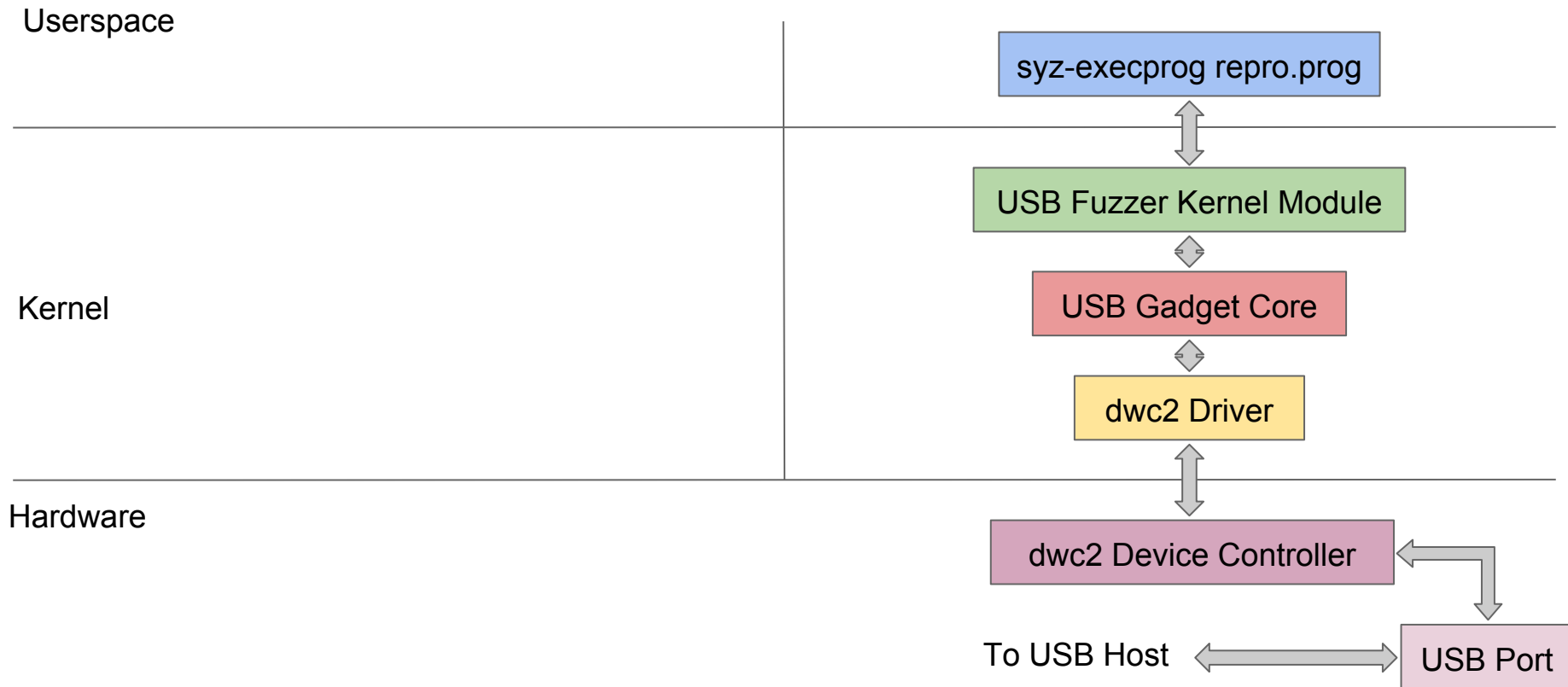


No hardware required!

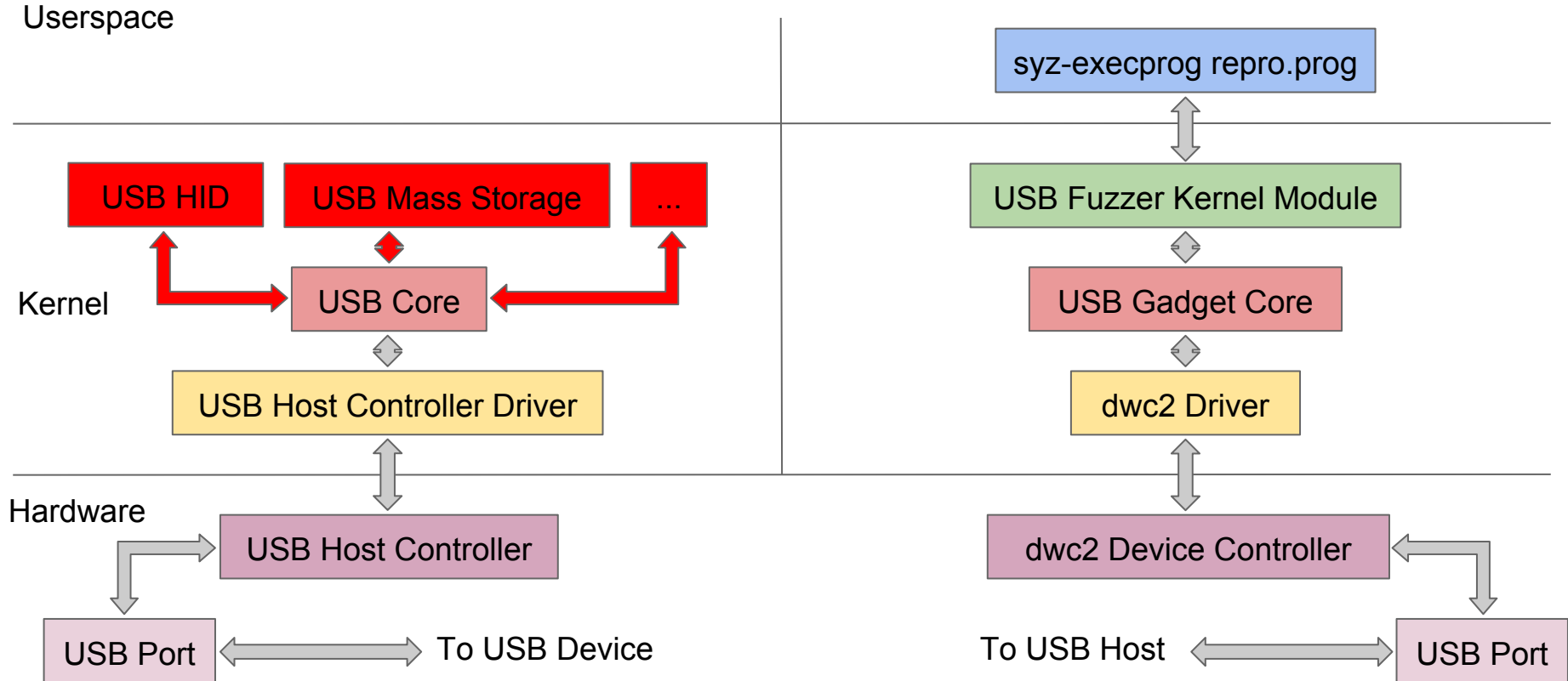
# Raspberry Pi Zero: dwc2 Device Controller



# Let's Use the USB Fuzzer Module

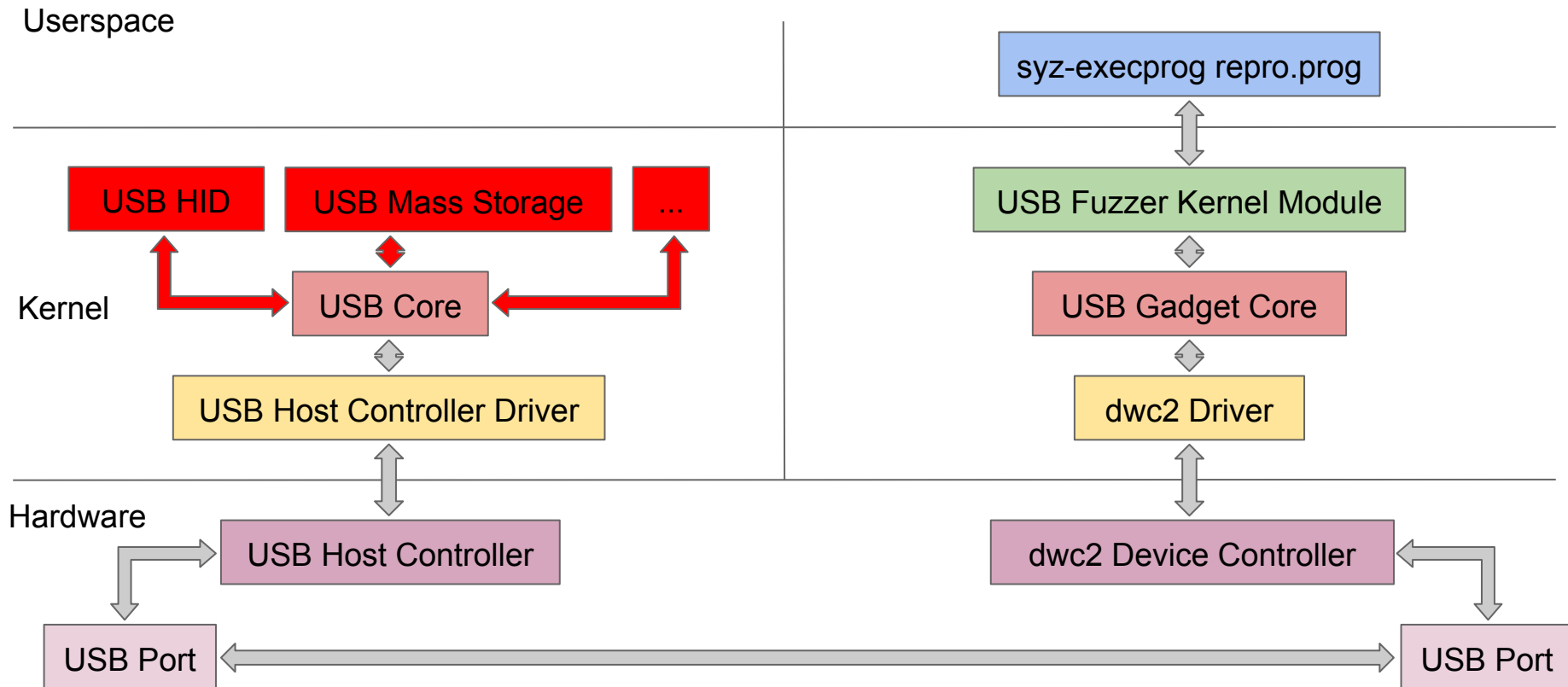


# And Plug RPi Zero into a Host





# Running Reproducers via Raspberry Pi Zero



# **Demo: Crashing Linux Over USB**

**Bonus**

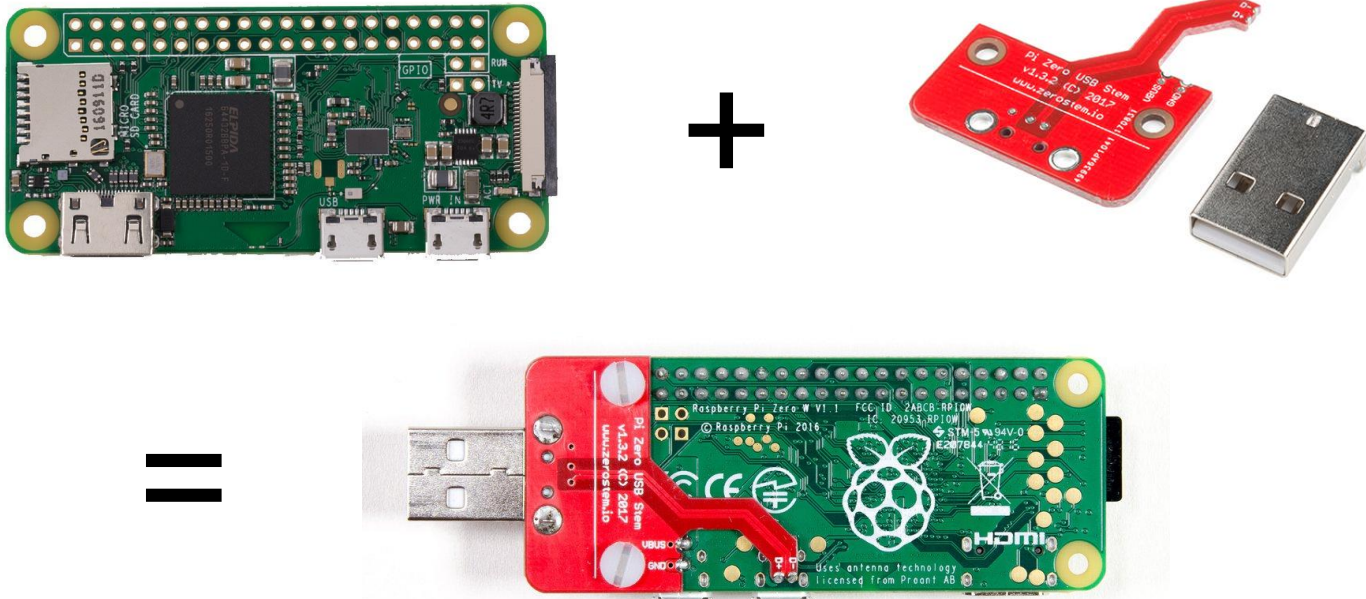
# What We Have at This Point

- A corpus of syzkaller programs that describe USB devices
- A way to execute those programs over USB cable
- Let's fuzz a Windows host! :)

# Getting Rid of the Wires

- Let's use a 10\$ Raspberry Pi Zero W
- Has Wi-Fi chip on board
  - Can set up Wi-Fi hotspot + SSH server

# Raspberry Pi Zero W + Zero Stem



<https://thepihut.com/products/raspberry-pi-zero-w>

<https://www.sparkfun.com/products/14526>

<https://shop.pimoroni.com/products/zero-stem-usb-otg-connector>

# **Demo: Crashing Windows Over USB**

# Thanks!

## Questions?

[https://github.com/google/syzkaller/blob/usb-fuzzer/docs/linux/external\\_fuzzing\\_usb.md](https://github.com/google/syzkaller/blob/usb-fuzzer/docs/linux/external_fuzzing_usb.md)

<https://syzkaller.appspot.com/>

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